

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 19 are pending in the application. Claims 1 to 19 are subject to a restriction requirement. Applicants respond as follows.

I. The Restriction Requirement Under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372

The Examiner required restriction of claims 1 to 19 to one of Groups I to IX. The Examiner states that the inventions do not relate to a single general inventive concept under 35 USC 121 or PCT Rule 13.1 because of the reasons indicated in the outstanding Office Action.

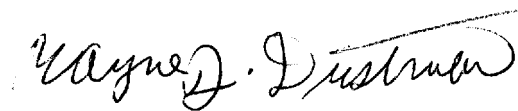
In order to be fully responsive to the Examiner's restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372 for election of a single invention applicants hereby elect, without traverse, to prosecute the invention of Group III (i.e. claims 1 to 4, 6 to 14 and 19, wherein X_3 being N, drawn to pyridoimidazole compounds of formula (I)). Applicants reserve the right of file a divisional application directed to the nonelected subject matter at a later date.

In order to advance the prosecution and for the convenience of the Examiner, the original claims have been canceled and a new set of claims directed to the elected invention have been added by the above amendments.

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This response is intended to distinctly and completely respond to the Examiner's requirement for restriction. If any matter remains to be resolved before allowance, or discussion of any matter will facilitate the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Wayne J. Dustman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

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